

**What is Claimed is:**

1 1. An incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises:  
2 a sticker that is issued to mailers that is placed on mail to identify  
3 the mailer to whom the sticker was issued;  
4 a receptacle that reads and stores the identifying information  
5 contained in the sticker before the mail enters the interior of the receptacle; and  
6 a data center that receives information contained in the sticker and  
7 the receptacle to determine if the mailer is permitted to enter mail into the interior  
8 of the receptacle.

1 2. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the sticker comprises:  
2 a label that has a code that uniquely identifies the person that was  
3 issued the label.

1 3. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the sticker comprises:  
2 a label that has a code that uniquely identifies the entity that was  
3 issued the label.

1 4. The system claimed in claim 3, wherein the label contains a area in  
2 which a postage stamp may be affixed.

1           5.     The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the sticker comprises:  
2                   a stamp that has a code that uniquely identifies the stamp.

1           6.     The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle further  
2 comprises:  
3                   a scanner that reads the sticker.

1           7.     The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the scanner captures and  
2 interprets the information contained in the sticker.

1           8.     The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the scanner is located in a  
2 control chamber.

1           9.     The system claimed in claim 8, wherein the control chamber has a  
2 locked door for isolating suspect mail.

1           10.    The system claimed in claim 9, wherein the interior of the  
2 receptacle comprises:  
3                   an inner chamber that receives mail from the control chamber that  
4 is not suspected of having life-harming material.

1           11.    The system claimed in claim 10, wherein the inner chamber has a  
2 locked door in which when open mail may be removed from the inner chamber.

1           12.    The system claimed in claim 8, further including:  
2                   a slot for depositing mail into the control chamber.

1           13.    The system claimed in claim 12, further including:  
2                   means for closing the slot when the mail in the control chamber is  
3 suspected of containing life-harming substances.

1           14.    The system claimed in claim 12, further comprising means for  
2                   indicating a message indicating the status of the receptacle.

1           15.    The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data center correlates  
2                   recipient address of the mail with information contained in the sticker.

1           16.    The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the receptacle further  
2                   comprises:  
3                   means for noting time and date that the mail was deposited in the  
4                   receptacle.

1           17.    The system claimed in claim 15, wherein the receptacles further  
2                   comprises:  
3                   means for noting location of the receptacle.